

## A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER



*Laurinda Keys Long, Editor*

The future of India's noble Marwari horse—with its hot temper, curly ears and legendary courage—is threatened by crossbreeding and misuse. After eight centuries in the subcontinent, the bloodlines of the warrior horses of Rajasthan have been diluted. For our cover story, "Saving the Raja's Horse," Jason Overdorf relates the struggle of a U.S.-based horse lover and her Indian friends to gain recognition for the breed's special qualities and export some of the horses to a protected environment in the United States. Photographs by Dale Durfee and Bob Langrish show why the Marwari is worth the effort.

"The Mall of America," by Ashish Kumar Sen, describes the development of the shopping mall phenomenon that began in the 1930s and spread across the United States and around the world. Sudipt Arora explains how "The Mall Mania" exploded in India in just six years, adapting to the desires and pocketbooks of the growing urban middle class.

Someday, customers strolling through a mall may find announcements and advertisements are being beamed to each of them individually. That's the dream of two inventors, using different approaches toward the same goal—changing the way we send and receive audio, writes Evan I. Schwarz in "The Sound War."

Anyone can join the war against tuberculosis. A shoemaker or a teacher can be a volunteer, monitoring a suffering neighbor to ensure that the full dosage of medicine is taken and the patient is cured. The "directly observed therapy, short course" or DOTS system is winning battles against the disease, Dinesh C. Sharma explains in "Fighting TB Together."

Innovations in teaching are highlighted in a package of articles: Alex Kingsbury's "Remote Access" describes American teachers using computers to reach students in rural areas; in "Empowering Women through Education," A. Venkata Narayana focuses on a new experiment in rural India, while Govind Singh writes about the popularity of "Higher Education Online."

Recent developments in U.S.-India cooperation are outlined by Rahul Bedi in "Strategic Partners in Defense." U.S. interest in India's security and independence

first emerged during World War II, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration worked with Indian freedom movement leaders and the British government. Dinyar Patel tells the story in "American Involvement in Cripps Mission."

It was 150 years ago that Henry David Thoreau retreated to a cabin at Walden Pond in Massachusetts to write his seminal treatise on individualism and the meaningful life. In "Walden's Ripple Effect," Robert D. Richardson says Thoreau's Walden is the ultimate self-help book on finding one's own convictions and living them out.

Another expression of individuality and freedom is jazz, an American-born musical form that grew from ragtime and blues in the middle of the last century. In the early 1960s, a personal connection with sitar master Ravi Shankar led one of America's jazz greats, John Coltrane, to draw Indian musical themes and structures into his work and to name one of his sons Ravi. A recent emotional reunion and spontaneous jam session in New Delhi between Shankar and jazz musician Ravi Coltrane is described in "Indian Ragas-American Jazz."

It is written by Laurinda Keys Long, the new editor of SPAN, who joins us after a 32-year journalism career with The Associated Press news agency and several American newspapers. Born into a musical family in Hollywood, Keys Long earned her journalism degree from the University of Southern California. She has worked in more than 30 countries and lived since 1999 in India, where she met her husband, Allahabad native Peter Vijay Long, an electrical contractor and consultant.

Keys Long succeeds Lea Terhune, who has returned to California after serving seven years as SPAN editor. We are grateful to Terhune for her excellent work with SPAN and hope that she will continue to write and provide photographs for the magazine.

We hope you enjoy all of the articles we've chosen for this issue.